

Docket No. F-6847

Ser. No. 09/767,458

REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-19, and 24-46 are now in this application. Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-19, and 24-38 are rejected. Claims 4-7, 12-15, 20-23 are previously cancelled. New claims 38-46 is added. Claim 1, 8, 9, 16, 17, 24 and 25 are amended herein to clarify the invention.

INTERVIEW ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The applicant and applicant's attorney appreciate the Examiner's granting of the telephone interview conducted on March 2, 2005, and extend their thanks to the Examiner for his time and consideration. During the interview application of the Sussman and Allison references to the pending claims was discussed. It was explained that the Allison reference merely showed a game object moving at a given speed which was deflected by operation of an operation input member and did not teach changing the speed of movement. The Examiner agreed as indicated in the Interview Summary of March 8, 2005, but indicated that he would considered applying the Armstrong reference, U.S. Pat. No. 6,343,991.

With regard to claims 29-31 it was explained that the claimed subject matter provides a game display method and system wherein "setting the unit moved amount (l) of the play character by the first action at a constant value regardless of

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the moving speed of the play character" provides for increasing the speed of movement of the character in game space yet maintaining a constant distance traveled in game space for each sequence of the plurality of frames of the first action. The Examiner averred that it is known to increase the speed at which a character takes steps to cover more distance in a shorter time.

CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1-3, 8-11, 16-19 and 24-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sussman (U.S. Patent No. 5,261,041) in view of Allison (U.S. Patent No. 3,809,395). Claims 32-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sussman (U.S. Patent No. 5,261,041) in view of Allison (U.S. Patent No. 3,809,395) and further in view of Hannai.

Claims 1, 9 and 17, were explained during the interview as providing that the operation of the operation member served to vary the speed of the play character from a base rate, maintained when no operation of the operation member is input, to a different speed based on the operation of the operation member. Claims 1, 9 and 17 are amended to specifically recite the base rate feature on the varying thereof when the operation member is operated. On the other hand, the Allison reference which was cited for teaching a moving object moving at a constant speed absent operation of an operation member, only discloses that the

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vertical direction of the marker 19 is varied by adjusting english control 41 or 43. It does not disclose that the base rate of speed at which the mark moves horizontally across the screen is varied. The Examiner agreed with this assessment but suggested that the heretofore not cited Armstrong reference may provide such a teaching and would be considered in the next Office Action.

Applicant has reviewed the Armstrong reference and has found that the reference does not disclose sequentially displaying image data corresponding to a plurality of frames of the image data for a first action at a base rate of speed when the operation member is not operated. The Armstrong reference discloses varying an action intensity from zero, such as running speed, based on the depression force of a button. Thus, it does not vary a base rate of sequential display of frames.

Claims 1, 9 and 17, are amended to recite that the base rate is varied based on a repetition rate of the operation of the operating member. Furthermore, claims 38-40 are added and recite "the operation of the operating member includes alternate operation of at least two operating members." The repetition rate of alternate operations of at least two operating members is nowhere suggested in the Armstrong reference or other previously applied references.

Claims 29-31, as noted above provide for increasing the speed of movement of the character in game space yet maintaining a constant distance traveled in game space for each sequence of the plurality of frames of the first action. This technique

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is used in conjunction with introducing the second action simplify providing a smooth transition between the first and second actions since the position of the play character will be determined upon reaching the predetermined position from the reference position since the distance between the two is known and is a multiple of the constant distance I cover by the series of actions. This is particularly counterintuitive in the situation where the play character is a runner as recited in claim 35-37 since faster running in actual life produces greater stride distances.

The Examiner has averred that increasing length of an action or speed of an action is known. The presently cited references do not provide this teaching. If the Examiner chooses to maintain these rejections it is respectfully requested that the Examiner provide documentation of such teachings which suggest the claimed arrangement wherein the distance covered from a reference position to a predetermined position is a multiple of the constant length of the repeated action. Furthermore, the connection between the transition between actions at the predetermined position must also be suggested by the references.

New claims 41 through 46 recite the above noted features providing for a base rate with no operation input, and changing the base rate based on a repetition rate of an operation input. There is no suggestion to provide such control in the references, much less suggestion to provide such operation control in conjunction with the constant distance action feature discussed above.

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Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the rejected claims are not obvious in view of the cited references for the reasons stated above. Reconsideration of the rejections of the claims and their allowance are respectfully requested.

CLAIM FEES

Nine further claims in excess of twenty are added. Accordingly, please charge the fee of \$450.00 to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

RCE AND TIME EXTENSION REQUEST CONCURRENTLY FILED

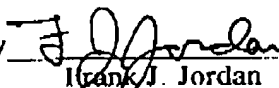
Applicant formally requests two month extension of time for responding to the Office Action in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) filed concurrently herewith.

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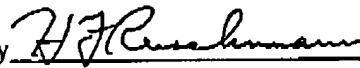
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In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

Respectfully submitted,
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